

## CURRENT TOPICS.

### THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

#### LIV. CONGRESS.

(First Session.)

In the senate, on the 23d, Mr. Morgan (dem., Ala.) continued his speech in support of the concurrent resolution for the recognition of Cuban belligerency. The Lodge resolution for an inquiry into the facts and circumstances of recent bond issues was taken up and discussed until the close of the morning hour, when it went to the calendar without action. In the house, in the course of the consideration of the Indian appropriation bill, an amendment was adopted, 23 to 4, prohibiting the secretary of the interior from spending any of the money appropriated for education of the Indians in sectarian institutions. Speaker Reed announced that he had signed the urgent deficiency and diplomatic and consular appropriation bills.

In the senate, on the 23d, Mr. Morrill (rep., Cal.) introduced a bill to have the house tariff bill taken up for consideration; but the proposition was defeated by a vote of 21 to 33, the solid democratic vote being supplemented by those of five silver republicans and five populists. Three hours' time was given to the further consideration of the Cuban belligerency resolution. In the house the Cuban appropriation bill was passed, without further discussion, and consideration of the Van Horn-Tarnsey contested-election case was entered upon. Majority and minority reports having been presented.

In the senate, on the 23d, Mr. Carter (rep., Mont.) assumed the leadership of the silver senators, making a long speech in defense of himself and other republican senators who had voted against taking up the house tariff bill. The Cuban belligerency resolution was taken up for consideration for some time without making any perceptible progress. In the house, on the 23d, the day's session was devoted to consideration of the Van Horn-Tarnsey contested-election case without arriving at a conclusion. Minor matters occupied the remainder of the session.

In the senate, on the 23d, Mr. Vest (dem., Mo.) made an impassioned address in favor of Cuban independence. Senator Proctor (rep., Va.) spoke in favor of the tariff bill, in preference to the creation of a powerful navy. A bill appropriating \$500,000 for two first-class revenue steamers for the Pacific coast was passed, as was the army appropriation bill, carrying \$23,000,000. In the house the Tarnsey-Van Horn contested-election case was taken up. Mr. Tarnsey was immediately sworn in. Unanimous consent for the consideration of the Cuban resolution was defeated by Mr. Boutelle (rep., Me.), who demanded less precipitation in the passage of a measure of such grave import, involving possible war with Spain.

#### PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

By the burning of the palatial residence of James R. Armiger, of North Baltimore, Md., on the 23d, seven persons, members of the family, servants and a guest, were either suffocated and burned in the building or killed by jumping from the windows. The dead of the family was himself among the victims.

REV. R. F. PARSHALL, aged 73, an evangelist of national reputation in the Baptist church, died at his home in Chicago, on the night of the 23d, from the effects of a railroad accident nine years ago. His services of half a century, extending from New York to California, resulted in many new churches and over five thousand conversions.

On the 24th Gov. Oates of Alabama issued a proclamation offering a reward of \$400 each for the arrest and conviction of such persons as participated in the lynching of Robert Willard in the city of Montgomery recently.

The battleship Indiana, with the naval board of inspection on board, went to sea from Fort Monroe, Va., on the 24th, on her trial trip.

On the 24th a west-bound Lake Shore train broke in two 12 miles east of Waterloo, Ind., and the two sections collided. Ten cars of coal oil ignited, and the flames spread rapidly, doing great damage in destroying surrounding property. All traffic was suspended for hours.

WILL WOOD, one of the trio arrested for causing the death of Pearl Bryan, was before Judge Grigg, in the Cincinnati police court, on the 23d. Bail was reduced from \$5,000 to \$3,000, and the case continued to April 13.

A SPECIAL train left Birmingham, Ala., on the 24th, for Savannah, carrying two baggage car loads of boxes, trunks and other baggage and between 200 and 300 negroes from Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi and Texas, en route to Monrovia, Liberia, Africa.

On the 24th Mrs. Elizabeth Coleman, aged 100 years, died at Gatesburg, Wis. Her husband was the last of the royal family of Stuarts, descending from James II. At the age of six months her father was killed, and later her mother, by marriage beneath her rank, was disinherited.

The iron steamer Bermuda, flying the British flag, was boarded and seized by a New York harbor on the night of the 24th. The Bermuda has been under the watch of Spanish spies for some time. They had reason to believe she had been bought by Cuban revolutionists and was sitting out as a filibuster.

The house military committee, on the 23d, considered a bill to establish a home in the District of Columbia for aged and infirm colored people, to cost \$100,000 and to be constructed out of the bounty money due to the estates of colored soldiers of the late war, whose heirs are unable to prove their relationship and which moneys are now lying in the United States treasury.

THIRTY-FIVE families of poor people in Hoboken, N. J., were rendered homeless, on the 23d, by fire.

The Dehshchens (Pa.) Iron Co. was, on the 23d, informed by Secretary Herbert that the government had awarded the company the contract for furnishing eight sets of 13-inch gun forgings. The Midvale Steel Co. got the contract for the 9-inch guns.

A ROYAL decree was issued in Brussels, on the 27th, accepting the resignation of M. DeBurelet from the office of prime minister, minister of the interior and minister of instruction, and appointing M. Fierens as his successor. The decree also appointed M. DeBurelet minister of state.

WILBUR F. MCCORMICK, a crook, confined in the jail at Newark, O., on the 26th, locked Turnkey Hazlett in the cell and escaped. Hazlett yelled for an hour before being released.

JUDGE BROWN, of New York, handed down an order in the United States circuit court, on the 26th, directing the removal of George Carson and Sidney Yennie, the alleged post office robbers to Springfield, Ill., to answer to the charge of having robbed the post office on April 3 last.

The governor of Pennsylvania issued a proclamation, on the 26th, designating April 10 and 24 as Arbor days, the choice of dates being left to the various sections of the commonwealth.

SAMUEL EDISON, father of Thomas A. Edison, the inventor, died at Norwalk, O., on the 26th, aged 92.

The police of Omaha, Neb., have information that Claycomb, the man taken back from Des Moines, Ia., for body-snatching, made a contract with the medical college at Des Moines to furnish it 75 dead bodies at \$30 each.

Mr. G. J. GOSCHEN, first lord of the British admiralty, speaking at Lewes ton, on the 26th, said that conciliation negotiation and arbitration might be valuable, but woe to the nations lacking courage or means to back their opinions.

The action of the post office department in refusing to accept the mail to various bond and investment companies was sustained in an opinion rendered by Attorney-General Hamron.

The minority of the house committee on foreign affairs said that in their opinion there was nothing in either of the Bayard speeches mentioned that calls for or justifies any censure by congress.

GOLD has been discovered in the City Creek canyon, within the city limits of Salt Lake, Utah. Assays are reported running as high as \$300 gold and \$40 in silver per ton.

REAR-ADMIRAL C. C. CARPENTER, United States navy, lately commanding the Asiatic squadron, was placed upon the retired list of the navy, on the 27th, being 62 years of age.

GEN. LEWIS MONRIEL, died, on the 27th, at the Presbyterian hospital in Philadelphia, of an affection of the kidneys. Deceased was a native of Pennsylvania, 62 years of age and a graduate of West Point. He was a commander of cavalry throughout the entire war of the rebellion and was several times promoted for gallant services.

ALEXANDER RHINES, aged 75, of Fulton county, Ind., applied, on the 27th, for a divorce from his ninth wife, to whom he was married on January 17 last, two days after he had secured a divorce from wife No. 8. He has another wife in view now.

UNITED STATES MINISTER TERRELL received information from Marsovan, on the 27th, showing that there had been no massacre as he had been reported. An outbreak had occurred at Adana, in which 12 Armenians were killed and 40 wounded.

DR. CARL PETERS, the African explorer, who was recently elected president of the German Colonial association, is about to undertake a new expedition of Somaliland in the interests of a number of wealthy Americans.

THE Iowa house, on the 27th, killed the re-submission of the prohibitory amendment by defeating the resolution and tabling a motion to reconsider.

On the 27th the president approved the urgent deficiency bill; the act granting leave of absence for a year to homestead settlers on the Yankton Indian reservation, S. D., and the act amending the act for the relief and civilization of the Chippewa Indians in Minnesota.

#### LATE NEWS ITEMS.

In the senate, on the 28th, according to programme previously agreed upon, the hours up to four o'clock were occupied in debate upon the Cuban question, senators vying with each other in praise of the Cuban patriots and in denunciation of Spain. At four o'clock the vote was taken on the resolution of the committee on foreign relations, as amended by the addition of Senator Cameron's resolution for the recognition of Cuban independence, and it was passed by a vote of 61 to 37.

In the house the legislative executive and judicial appropriation bill was considered in committee of the whole, 21 pages of it being disposed of. The conference report on the general pension appropriation bill was agreed to. The house committee on reform in the civil service ordered a favorable report, on the 28th, on a bill making it a misdemeanor to discriminate against any person on account of political affiliation for appointment to any position under the civil service. The law is also made to apply to persons after appointment, and violation is made punishable by fine or imprisonment or both.

JUDGE GROSSCUP, on the 28th, declined to change the sentence of Joseph Dunlop, editor of the Chicago Dispatch, convicted of sending obscene matter through the mails and fined \$1,000 and sentenced to two years in the penitentiary. The court informed his attorneys that an appeal might be made to the president.

EX-CONGRESSMAN BOURKE COCKRAN is not booked for a monastery, as at first reported. It is true, however, that he has recently applied to the College of the Holy Cross, at Worcester, Mass., for admission as a seminarian. He will, it is said, study for the priesthood, and seek in the seclusion of the cloister absolute peace and earthly oblivion.

J. H. WISDOM, JAMES P. PETERSON and J. JOHANNSEN, the late captain, first mate and second mate of the steamer Horsa, were convicted in the United States district court at Philadelphia, on the 28th, of engaging in a Cuban filibustering expedition. Sentence was suspended pending a motion for new trial.

The resolution of the committee on foreign affairs, as amended by the addition to it of Senator Cameron's resolution declaring for the recognition of Cuban independence, was adopted by the United States senate, on the 28th, by the practically unanimous vote of 61 to 4.

#### MISSOURI STATE NEWS.

##### The Agricultural College.

Col. N. F. MURRAY, of Holt county, author of the Murray bill to remove the Agricultural college from Columbia, recently delivered a series of lectures before the college students. After examination of the work, he has come to the conclusion that the college should be retained at Columbia.

Says Col. Murray: "I find the following changes and improvements have been made within the past year: The short course in agriculture has been entirely remodelled and reconstructed, and now has 24 students, compared with 3 last year. In the long course a largely-increased attendance, a more enthusiastic interest and better work. I find a complete modern dairy equipment added, and arrangements made for giving all students in agriculture practical experience in the best method of handling and marketing high-grade butter. Instead of teaching agriculture by means of lectures alone the cultural and horticultural libraries have been more than doubled, indexed and made available to the students. A new department of entomology, fully equipped with a vast good to the farmer, gardener and fruit-grower of our state. Arrangements are now made for several herds of thoroughbred stock to be kept on the campus of the college. On the horticultural grounds I find a new greenhouse nearly completed, at a cost of \$9,000."

##### An Unusual Claim.

A Washington special to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat says: "An unusual war claim bill recently introduced in the house of representatives 'authorizes' in agriculture 'practical experience' in the best method of handling and marketing high-grade butter. Instead of teaching agriculture by means of lectures alone the cultural and horticultural libraries have been more than doubled, indexed and made available to the students. A new department of entomology, fully equipped with a vast good to the farmer, gardener and fruit-grower of our state. Arrangements are now made for several herds of thoroughbred stock to be kept on the campus of the college. On the horticultural grounds I find a new greenhouse nearly completed, at a cost of \$9,000."

Millions of dollars have been appropriated for the payment of damages done by the Union troops, but the government has not yet begun to acknowledge responsibility for damages. When the war broke out, the government reported adversely on the Lindsay bill, saying "that the government is not prepared to pay such claims," etc.

##### State Board of Equalization.

The state board of equalization met in Jefferson City the other day.

The board will be in session from day to day until passing upon the valuation of the real and personal property in the state. The board organized by electing Gov. Stone president and Secretary of State Leasure vice-president. State Auditor J. M. Selbert is under the law to make reports to the board. The board will hear all those interested in the valuation of real and personal property. The most important part of the work of the board is the valuing of railroad, bridge and telegraph property in the state, which will not be taken up until some time in April, and several months will be required to complete that work.

##### Were Not Surprised.

Says a dispatch sent from Neosho: "The news of the bank robbery at Wicks Falls, Tex., in which Elmer Lewis, formerly of Neosho, was implicated, and for which he was held, caused no great surprise. Lewis was a son of James Lewis of Neosho, and about a year ago went to the territory. Later he returned and left last fall, taking with him his cousin, Miss Lewis. He never knew to be engaged in lawlessness of any consequence, but always wanted to convey the idea of being a bad man."

##### Death of an Aged Missourian.

Francis An Buncheon, an old resident of St. Francois county, whose home was at French Valley, was found dead in bed. He was just a month past 84, was a native of St. Genevieve county, but had lived in St. Francois county nearly all his life. His wife died a few years ago. He left eight children, 31 grandchildren and a number of great-grandchildren.

The Jefferson City Bridge Completed. The last span of the steel bridge across the Missouri river at Jefferson City was completed the other day, and the event was marked by the blowing of all the steam whistles on the river and bridge works. The bridge complete will cost \$250,000, and is owned exclusively by Jefferson City people.

##### Vandals in a Church.

Vandals entered the Epworth M. E. church in Sedalia, just completed at a cost of \$10,000, and cut all the electric-light wires, damaged the woodwork and committed other depredations. The building committee has offered a liberal reward for the apprehension of the guilty parties.

##### A Bad Plaything.

The four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Gust, three miles below Portage, St. Charles county, was shot and instantly killed by Louis, his eight-year-old brother. The death was the result of an accidental discharge of a shotgun, with which they were playing.

##### His Brain Gave Way.

John Turner, a highly-esteemed citizen of Bowling Green, who was taken to the insane asylum at Fulton not long ago, died from softening of the brain. He was 70 years old, and had been a resident of Pike county for over 80 years. He leaves a large family.

##### A Youth Shot and Killed.

James B. Evans, aged 18, was shot and instantly killed near Kingsville, Johnson county, by Millard Jones, an aged star route contractor. Some trouble between Evans and a younger member of the Jones family was the cause of the killing.

##### A New Commercial Club.

A commercial club of 15 members of Clinton business men has been organized. The club will look after the business interests of the city, and social features will be added to make it interesting.

##### Sudden Death of a Farmer.

S. E. Johnson, aged 40, a farmer near Little Rock, Saline county, attended church, was taken ill soon after and died in a few hours; paralysis.

##### A Farmer Killed by the Cars.

W. B. Sims, a farmer of near Pilot Grove, Cooper county, was killed by a freight train while walking the Missouri, Kansas & Texas track.

##### A Veteran's Sudden Death.

Gen. Madison Miller, a veteran of the Mexican and the late war, died suddenly at his home in St. Louis. No cause was in the house at the time.

#### THE STUDENTS WEAKENED.

A Little Rebellion at the State University Squelched by the Council.—The Council Had the Names of 138 Engaged in the Disorder, but There Were 186 Apologies.

There were threats of serious trouble at the Missouri state university, Columbia, a few days ago. On February 14 trouble arose between the students, and there was considerable disorder. The faculty were rather reticent, but a few days ago they made their first important move. They issued a notice stating in most emphatic terms that if all the students who participated in the recent disturbance did not come forward before 5 o'clock the following afternoon and sign a pledge, promising good behavior, they would be promptly dismissed from the university.

The following was issued: Order of the Council: The council of the university of the state of Missouri, at a meeting held on February 21, 1896, unanimously passed the following order:

The council of the university of the state of Missouri, being apprised of a concerted movement on the part of a considerable number of the students of the university, to take and enforce an exemption from their regular duties on the 14th of February, 1896, under the name of a holiday, without authority of the council and in defiance of the authorities of the university; and that said movement culminated in disorderly and riotous conduct in the library room, in a noisy procession around the quadrangle in front of the departmental building and through the city of Columbia, during the hours devoted to study and recitation, and in willful absence from class duties, by reason of all which the regular exercises of the university were greatly disturbed and interrupted; and the council having referred the matter to the committee of discipline and received their report thereon, wherein the names of students participating in said movement appear to the council, now, therefore, the council, having considered the report aforesaid and being fully satisfied on the matter, makes the following order:

1. That all further action of the authorities of the university be discontinued as to all the students participating in said movement upon condition that they make and subscribe to the president on or before Tuesday, February 25, 1896, at 5 o'clock, p. m., a pledge upon their honor, in writing, that they will not during the remainder of their course engage in any movement against the action of the authorities of the university, except in a legal and proper manner.

2. That the president be and is hereby authorized and required to dismiss from the university all students who refuse to make and subscribe the pledge and promise aforesaid.

3. That the committee on discipline be instructed to make secret of the names of any, who participated in said movement and who have not made the pledge and promise aforesaid.

4. That a copy of this order be forwarded to the parents or guardians of all students participating in said movement who have been dismissed from the university in pursuance of the same.

(Signed) ISAAC LOEB, Secretary of the Council.

At about 4:30 some of the students began to assemble in the lower halls of the university, in front of the president's office. All knew that the office would be closed promptly at five o'clock. Some suggested that all unite in singing "Blessed Be the Tie that Binds" at the last stroke of the bell. Others suggested other modes of making some sort of demonstration, but when the bell sounded and the president's office was closed, there were to be heard only a few faint cheers from the 100 students, who then dispersed. The discipline committee only had the names of 138 students, while 190 signed the required pledge. Only two students, whose names were in the possession of the discipline committee, have failed to comply with the council's terms, and it is supposed that they will present some good excuse.

In an interview with Dr. Jesse, after the difficulty had been settled, he stated, in answer as to the question as to how the parents of the students regarded the affair, that he had not received a single letter that did not endorse the stand of the faculty and was not in favor of discipline. This statement is also borne out by the telegrams and letters received by the students from home, some going so far as to state that if the boys left the university they need not return home.

#### THE SALVATION ARMY

in the United States Will Remain Loyal to the General-in-Chief.

NEW YORK, Feb. 27.—Col. W. M. Eadie, one of the leaders of the Salvation army in this country, announces positively that all danger of a secession by the supporters of former Commander Hallington Booth is now past. All the brigadiers of the army, who, during the controversy between the two factions, had been wavering, were now ready to support Gen. William Booth, of London, against Mr. and Mrs. Ballington Booth. The last of the brigadiers to reach this decision, Col. Eadie said, was Brig. Fielding, of Chicago. During the trouble Brig. Fielding was one of Hallington Booth's most ardent supporters.

#### The Relief Work in Armenia.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 26.—United States Minister Terrell has received a telegram from Marash stating that supplies for the relief of the Armenians in Asia Minor are obtainable in Marash. Messrs. Hubbell and Mason, of the American Red Cross society, will start for Zeitoun to-day if the trades permitting their departure are ready, as it is expected they will be.

#### A Captured Crook Turns a Next Trick.

COLUMBUS, O., Feb. 27.—A special to the Press from Newark, O., says that Wilbur E. McCormick, a crook confined in the jail at that place, contrived to lock Turnkey Hazlett in a cell and escaped. Hazlett yelled for an hour before help came and released him.

#### Brewery and Beer Damaged.

CHICAGO, Feb. 27.—More than a quarter of a million gallons of beer were spoiled by fire in the cooling rooms of the M. H. Brewing Co. Tuesday night. The damage to the beer and the building in which it was housed was estimated by Mr. Brand at \$47,000.

#### Foundry Burned.

CHICAGO, Feb. 27.—The foundry of Kurtz & Baber, 233 Austin avenue, was entirely destroyed by fire Tuesday night. Loss, \$145,000. L. S. Olinberg was severely burned while attempting to get in extinguishing the flames.

#### DUN'S COMMERCIAL REVIEW.

February Failures Show Marked Increase Over Last Year.—Some Business Notes. The market for grain, cotton, wool, etc., is quiet. Prices, except for wheat, which has taken an upward flight, are generally lower.

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—E. G. Dun & Co. say to-day in their weekly review of trade: Failures in three weeks of February show liabilities of \$10,889,936, against \$8,523,978 last year and \$11,450,418 in 1894. Failures for the week have been 1794. The United States, against 250 last year and 38 in Canada, against 28 last year.

In some quarters business gains at the west, rather than at the east, but there is no change for the better, although hopefulness still predominates. Foreign affairs grow more pacific, public opinion turns more resolutely toward sound money, but the want of sufficient demand for the products of the great industries still retards actual improvement. Strikes of some importance in garment making and kindred lines affect trade in Chicago and Baltimore.

Speculative markets show little life. The volume of business does not improve. Exchanges through the principal clearinghouses show 19.7 per cent. gain over last year, but the month's comparison with 1891 is the only instructive one, and shows a decrease of 20.7 for February.

Railroad earnings for the third week of February exceed last year's 5.8 per cent., and for February thus far have been 11.0 per cent. greater than last year.

Stock speculation has been irregular, and Cuban war talk on Friday caused a break in railroad stocks, averaging 33 points. Disappointing industrial statements, together with the general break, lowered trusts \$1.48.

Wheat has taken a slight upward, advancing 3 1/2 cents for cash and 2 1/2 for May, with rumors of foreign supplies as the only basis. Estimates of wheat in farmers' hands are lower than last year, but still indicate, with visible stocks, a supply much beyond probable needs.

Cotton has been weaker with only fair receipts, the important decline in goods having much influence. The price of middling uplands has declined a sixteenth and preparation for a large increase of acreage is still reported.

The market for textile goods is disappointing. Material reductions in cottons have not brought out the needed demand and a further decline in Lawrence L. L. brown sheetings this week to 6 1/2 cents corresponds with reports that mills of some importance may prefer to arrest production for a time unless demand improves.

Woolen mills are receiving considerable orders for spring goods, but business for the future does not mend, clay worsted are again a shade lower. The range for all wools is scarcely one per cent. higher than a year ago, although wool is more than seven per cent. higher, and a good many mills are closing or reducing time.

Gray fabrics to \$10.75 a yard.

The demand for boots and shoes gains very little.

Exports of domestic products from New York for three weeks show a gain of 16 per cent. over last year, while imports in the same time scarcely increase. But export bills are diminishing rapidly at this season, while larger imports naturally come in succeeding months, and many security bills have to be met in the near future. It is therefore believed by many that gold exports are not far off.

#### THE GREAT INFIDEL.

Winning His Way to the Hearts of Christians.—The W. C. T. U. Will Hear Him.

CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—A committee of three prominent members of the W. C. T. U., chosen to confer with Rev. Dr. Rusk of the Millant church, concerning his accepted invitation to Robert C. Ingersoll to talk at the church some Sunday morning, placed themselves on record to-day, after a conference with Dr. Rusk, that the Christian temperance organization was not averse to hearing Ingersoll. The ladies of the executive committee said they would like to hear him when he comes to Willard hall, the home of the Millant church in the Temple building. The church holds a lease for Willard hall, and as the W. C. T. U. merely rents the hall from the syndicate which owns the temple at present, Dr. Rusk convinced the committee that the church could invite anyone it chose to occupy the pulpit without asking the advice or consent of the W. C. T. U.

Dr. Rusk said "the best good to the greatest number" was in his heart when he invited Ingersoll to the pulpit, and that the infidel had set an example of charity and love in his letter of acceptance which the W. C. T. U. would do well to follow.

When the committee asked Dr. Rusk if his motives in the matter had been questioned by anyone, he replied: "No, not even those of my brethren in the probrately who think it ill-advised question my motive, and many of them and the students of the McCormick Theological seminary have asked for tickets of admission. To great contrast with the abuse heaped upon Mr. Ingersoll I believe how will return love of men for abuse of himself—it will be the supreme hour of his life."

"Yes, and an epoch in religious history," added Mrs. Gros, the chairman of the committee.

#### DEFIED THE OFFICERS.

And Fell Dead at the First Fire Shot Through the Jugular Vein.

DALLAS, Tex., Feb. 23.—Willie Burton, a desperado from east Texas, armed with a navy six-shooter and a dirk knife, defied three Dallas officers to arrest him yesterday. Only one shot was fired, and Burton fell dead with his jugular vein severed, and the bullet somewhere in his body below the neck. He held a cocked pistol in his right hand and the open dirk in his left. Officer Sanderson, who fired the shot, was arrested.

#### FASHION LETTER.

A Most Remarkable Quality of Colors Contrasted with the Most Beautiful Tints—Spring Season in Fashion's Domain.

(Special New York Correspondence.)

Fashionable dressmakers are busy preparing the last of their latest costumes and the first of their latest gowns for '96. Black, gray and brown colors are used for the first time in dress, and for the first time in the most bewildering variety of colors, combinations and styles that the spring season in fashion's domain ever witnessed. The shops are aglow with novelties of every description, from Lyons brocade to American dainty; from stately Persian patterned silks and satins, to simple, girlish "book-mullin" at 25 cents a yard. The new tailor costumes show skirts slightly flaring from the waist down, and sleeves decidedly smaller. It is to be hoped, however, that after a certain amount of "reefing" the decrease will cease, and that the fashion rules will let well enough alone. If women would only take a decided stand against going to the other extreme in the fashioning of their new silences as they did in repressing the odious hoop skirt, when it loomed up on fashion's horizon, they could carry the day once again, and thus pass a delightful spring and summer with more comfort and less absurdly large for gowns, not too close and confining for comfort. As things look at present, however, we have before us the prospect for at least two seasons of uncommonly beautiful, graceful and becoming styles, devoid of extremes of any sort, and rich in picturesque beauty and elegance.

As the spring advances, a renewed taste will be evinced for Norfolk waists and other styles of bodices arranged with flat plaits—a fashion extremely becoming to slender figures, and, since the plaits run lengthwise, not at all objectionable to those of larger build. These plaits are already seen on walking, traveling and cycling costumes of tweed, cheviot, tailor suitings, etc., and the idea will be followed in making up morning, tea and dress gowns, and fancy silks, and innumerable and lovely muslins, lawns, dimities and colored linens for summer wear. There are box-plaits in flat and machine-stitched, or, as finer goods, they are loosely draped, and often criss-crossed with lace insertion bands. The belted round waists are in three plaits in front and back, sometimes below a yoke, or else the gathered waist has lengthwise bands simulating such plaits, the outer bands extending to the shoulders. Again there is a series of very fine plaits in clusters of five or seven, separated by embroidery between the clusters. The perianth blouse waist blossoms out a thing of beauty, and in such new beautiful forms as to render it almost a novelty. One model has a deeply-pointed yoke made of richest Persian brocade. The rest of the waist is formed of chambray satin whose exquisite colors repeat most of those in the brocade yoke. The close coat sleeve of the satin with deep-pointed Vandyke organ of the brocade, falling over the small puff at the top. Another elegant waist is made of moiré green satin with three satin box-plaits on the front, overlaid with insertion bands of high net spangled in designs that form flowers and shaded green leaves. There is a spangled yoke at the back, and the collar and belt are covered with the glittering garniture. A pink check silk, made exactly like this waist, is trimmed with elegant jet appliques and fastenings bands. A rose-colored satin blouse draped with pink velvet and garnished with pink and blue and pearl bead trim, and rose satin ribbons.